NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

September 29, 1995

Before you close your bank accounts, *STOP and THINK!* You must notify PERSONNEL/PAYROLL first! If you do not do this, your paycheck will be sitting in limbo and you will not receive your paycheck until the next paydate!

If you have any questions regarding this, please call **Doris** (x220) or **Sandy** (x289).

FILMING *RELIC*

As you have been informed, Paramount Studios will be filming the movie Relic at the Museum from the middle of October until possibly the middle of November. Included in this issue of the *Natural News* is the October schedule of internal and external filming. Please keep in mind that this schedule is subject to last minute changes. We will try to keep you abreast of any major changes. Thanks.

Diane White, Public Services

MIDWEST MUSEUMS CONFERENCE

The annual meetings of Midwest Museums Conference were held in Cincinnati, September 19 through 23. Several Field Museum staff members attended, and all judged the meetings a success. Programs were informative, thought-provoking, and relevant to current museum issues. The conference also provided opportunities to visit a wide variety of institutions and to meet with colleagues from around the region.

Janice Klein (Anthropology), Chair of the National Registrars' Committee, represented that group at the regional meeting. She also chaired a workshop on packing and shipping artifacts, and attended several other sessions. Wil Grewe-Mullins (Anthropology) also attended a number of seminars, including a very informative workshop on new techniques for physically numbering artifacts.

Deborah Perry (Exhibits) had a very busy week. Recently elected to the Board of MMC, representing all the Standing Professional Committees. She is also the Midwest representative of CARE (Committee on Audience Research and Evaluation). Deborah spent a lot of time attending to official duties, including hosting the annual CARE breakfast. In her "spare" time, she presented papers on exhibit evaluation techniques and case studies at two sessions.

Peter R. Crane (Academic Affairs) and **Veronica Arreola** (undergraduate student and Field Museum intern), were invited to participate in the NSF sponsored fourth national conference on "Diversity in the Scientific and Technological Workforce," held in Washington D.C. in late September.

Jim Lowers (Auxiliary Services) is Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee of the MMC, and played a role in organizing the meetings. In addition to attending the conference, he visited several area museums and scoped out their special events venues.

Kristi Webber (Education) attended the meetings as Secretary of the Educators' Committee. She also took in a wide sampling of sessions, including a workshop on museums and the Internet and a discussion of new approaches to museum education. Mara Cosillo-Starr (Education) also attended the Internet workshop, as well as seminars on time management seminar and teen volunteers.

Gene Dillenburg (Exhibits) hosted a round table discussion on informal networks for museum professionals, and also made a presentation at an all-day workshop on exhibit revision and renovation sponsored by NAME (National Association of Museum Exhibitors). When not locked in his hotel room writing his speeches, Gene attended a number of sessions, including a very interesting discussion on using exhibits to provide historical context for contemporary issues.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for September 26, 1995 was given by Dr. Scott Steppan, Researcher, Division of Mammals and Postdoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian Institution. Scott described two broad aspects of his research on sigmodontine rodents. The first focused on questions involved in sigmodontine radiations in South America, and the second summarized innovative analytic techniques to address questions involved in the evolution of covariance structure. The radiation of nearly 300 contemporary species of sigmodontine rodentsis largely confined to South America, and is generally thought to have been derived from North American precoursers now representedonly by fossil taxa. Scott's cladistic hypothesis of relationships among the entire SouthAmerican sigmodontines indicated the traditionally regarded nearest relatives of the entire group, species of *Neotomys* and *Loxodontomys*, to actually be highly derivative elements within the group. Inclusion of newly discovered fossil taxa of South American origin allowed Scott to infer relative age of these lineages, and relate them to the timing of establishment of the Central American land bridge connecting North and South America. Since the North American fossils are about 6 million years old and the land bridge was established about 3 million years ago, then one could infer sigmodontines invaded South America about 3 mya. This scenario requires a very rapid rate of sigmodontine radiation in South

RE C
October 1995
Projection Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Phones installed in classroom IV	3 Roof Prepared	4 Roof Prepared	5 Roof Prepared	6 Roof Prepared	7
8	9 Interior and Exterior Cables Laid Roof Staged	10 Interior and Exterior Cables Laid Roof Staged	11 Interior and Exterior Cables Laid Roof Staged	12 Interior and Exterior Cables Laid Roof Staged	13 Interior and Exterior Cables Laid Roof Staged	14
15	16 Ext. Day/Classroom III Kids Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	17 Ext. and Int. Day/ Classroom III Kids Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	18 Int. Day/Classroom III Kids Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	19 Int. Day/Classroom III Kids Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	20 Int. Day/Classroom III Kids Use of Artifact Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	21
22	23	24 Ext. Day and Night Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	25 Ext. Night Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	26 Ext. and Int. Night Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	27 Generator on Terrace/ Paramount will guard	28
29	30	31				

*Please note: Schedule is subject to change.

9/19/1995

October 1995

Museum Wide Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 The Sagebrush Ocean closes 7:00-10:30pm SE Chgo Hang Gliding, LHI 7:30-10:00pm SE IL Mycological , LH2	3 9:00am-1:00pm SE Catering Mtg., LHI	4 8:00-9:30am Security, LH2	5 7:00-11:00pm SE Dodge/Reliance Elec, SFH 200	6 5:00pm ED Maya Lecture, LH1 7:00-10:00pm SE U of Chicago, SFH 100	7 9:00am-2:00pm SE Chgo Pk Dist, JST, MWH,LHI,DRE, CR3; 300 6:00-10:30pm SE A.J. E.A. 2000; EFM 1500
8 BEARS 9:00am-5:00pm ED Maya Glyph Wksp, LH2,CRI	9 10:00am-12:00pm Aymara Boat Builders, SFH 6:30-10:00pm SE Camera Club, LHII 6:30-10:00pm SE Primative Art, LH1	10 10:00am-1:00pm ED Celebracion 2:00pm Aymara Slide Lecture, LHI 6:00-9:00pm DEV Stewardship Dinner, Founders' Rm	11 8:00-11:00am Conversations Forum, LHI or JST	12 11:00am-4:00pm ED Celebracion 5:00-8:00pm SE Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, SFH 300	13 11:00am-4:00pm ED Celebracion 5:45pm-9:00am ED Group Overnight	14 9:00am-1:00pm 5k Family Fall Walk 11:00am-4:00pm ED Celebracion 7:00-9:30pm SE NW Med. Foundation, SFH/Bal, 325 7:00pm-12:00am SE Wedding, SFH/BAL
15 Chgo Marathon Grant Pk etc.	16 3:00-5:00pm Exhibits Staff Meeting, Maori House 6:30-9:30pm SE Mountaineering Club, LHI	17	18	19 2:30-3:30pm HSKP, LH2	20	21 10:30am-2:30pm SE Kobe Colley, Founder's Rm 6:00pm-12:00am SE Baker & McKenzie, EFM 1000
22 BEARS	23 5:30-7:30pm SE Arthur Andersen, SFH 900	24	25 7:00-10:30pm SE Chgo Herp., JST	26 8:00am-3:00pm SE Executive Plaza, JST, LHI 200	27 5:45pm-9:00am ED Overnight	28 9:00am-1:00pm ED AFC Prog, CR2, LH1&2 7:00pm-11:00am SE Chgo Church of Christ, SFH/Bal 1000
29 Chicago Marathon 1995 Grant Park	30	31				

9/27/1995

"BOOK-ABLE" SPACES IN FIELD MUSEUM
1/6/95

SPACE	LOC	MAX	USE	SCHEDULE BY	CONTACT	EXT.	
Classroom 1	GF	50	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 2	GF	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 3	GF	30	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 4	2nd	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Conf. Room 1	GF	20	I	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room A	GF	16	I	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room B	GF	4	I S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room C	GF	6	I S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room C/D	GF	20	I S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room D	GF	12	I S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Dining Room E	GF	75	I P S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
D&P Conf. Room	4th	10	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Educ. Conf. Room	GF	14	I S	Education	Clara Aytch-Baker	247	
Developers Conf. Rm.	4th	8	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Founder's Room	1st	100	I S	Tours	Dorothy Roder	862	Restricted use
Montgomery Ward H.	GF	150	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Lecture Hall II	GF	75	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic East (Sch)	GF	320	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic West (Pub)	GF	125	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Rice Center	1st		P S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Simpson Theatre	GF	1000	I P S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
Zoology Clrm.	3rd	50	I	Zoology	Norann Miller	255	
Webber Resource	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Maori Meeting House	2nd	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Pawnee Earth Lodge	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Place for Wonder	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Stanley Field Hall	1st	35	I P S	Spec. Events	Barbara Ip	864	
EXHIBIT HALL: Permanent Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218}	Exhibits Dept.
EXHIBIT HALLS: Special Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218}	consulted prior to confirmation

I = Internal (meetings, etc.)
P = Public (Programs, Classes, etc.)
S = Special Events

America to evolve nearly 300 present day species in only 3 million years, as well as massive extinction of the North American precoursers. Scenarios that attempt to account for the great diversity of sigmodontines by hypothesizing an earlier North American radiation also require multiple and independent invasions of South America and concomitant extinctions in North America. In the second half Scott described several highly innovative techniques using very sophisticated matrix algebra to describe variation in the phenotype as a reflection of the underlying genetic or evolutionary divergences. He obtained data for forty-five populations representing seven hierarchical taxonomic levels of sigmodontine rodents, i.e., individuals of differing age within a population of a given subspecies, among these populations, among subspecies, etc., tothe level of species groups, to address questions of possible covariance of both morphological and phylogenetic patterns across each of the seven taxonomic levels. He found that statistically, phenotypic covariance is not conserved at any level, but overall, populations are very similar in their patterns of phenotypic variation. There is a very weak pattern of phylogenetic covariance. There is no pattern of phylogenetic divergence and the overall divergence of the phenotype. There is a weak pattern of phylogenetic structure and taxonomic level, where divergence is greatest among populations within a subspecies and declines above the species level.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

RECYCLING ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN ADMINISTRATION AREA

After six months of doing a great job of monitoring the paper recycling tote in the Administration area, **Paul Baker** is looking for a replacement (or two!). This tote is used by many areas at the north end of the Ground Floor: Accounting, Administrative Services, Auxiliary Services, Budget Dept., Development, Facility Planning, Finance, Personnel, President's Office, Public Services, Publications, Purchasing, Security, Special Events, Vending, and Zoology (Fishes, Amphibians & Reptiles). This tote, located in the ice machine closet by the check cashing window, gets a lot of use so it's important to keep it monitored frequently and moved to Shipping when it's full. Please contact Paul Baker (x881) or **Mary Anne Rogers** (x272) if you work in one of these areas and are willing to assume the responsibility for this tote for a while. It doesn't have to be forever and you don't have to be Hercules to move a full tote. Given the popularity of this tote, it might help to have a team of two to keep up with the flow.

THE VOLUNTEER SPECTATOR

The Field Museum continues to utilize the service of over 400 volunteers. For this we are ever grateful. Over the next several weeks, all Museum volunteers will be acknowledged in this column.

For work in collections and research, appreciation goes to the current volunteers and their supervisors in the Department of Anthropology, and in CCUC.

Dodie Baumgarten
Sol Century
Paul DuBrow
Hershey Escudero
Peter Gayford
Kyoko Iida*
Kazuko Ishihara*
Derek Kleckner
Carolyn Moore
Hiroko Oda
Naoko Osawa
Malcolm Smith
Hsi-tsin Tsiang
Wang-fai Wong
Miyako Yamamoto
Tomomi Yoshimizu*
Bennet Bronson

Brynn Bender
Clare Dolan
Cap Sease

Garland Brown
Robert Gowland
Barbara Novy
Dorothea Phipps-Cruz
Christine Gross

Tracy Colquhoun
Charles Stanish

Connie Crane
James VanStone

Thomas Grygiel
Belen Jaquez
Ika Tomaschewsky
Jonathan Haas

Stella Kukadia
Jack MacDonald
Robert Welsch

Steven McCandless
Chapurukha Kusimba

Catalina Larios
Rebecca Severson
Alaka Wali

Marcell Smith
Jacqueline Carter

Cecelia Wagner
John Terrell

Edward Yastrow
Phillip Lewis

*Overseas volunteer in Japan.

NEXT WEEK: BOTANY & GEOLOGY